



May 5, 2023

Honorable Co-Chairs Fred Girod and Paul Holvey
Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St.
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of a state investment for the Willamette Water Supply System (WWSS). The WWSS is a \$1.6 billion infrastructure project that will modernize and protect the water supply for more than 375,000 residential, commercial, and industrial water users in Hillsboro, Beaverton, and the TVWD service areas.

This project is critical to the stability of water supply in Washington County, the semi-conductor manufacturer capitol of Oregon, as well as the broader metropolitan area. In addition to providing abundant, reliable water to residents and businesses, this new seismically resilient water delivery system will also provide necessary protection against the Cascadia earthquake. The new state of the art treatment plant will also mitigate against existing water quality challenges, as well as protect against emerging contaminants for all water users.

We view this project as part of the solution to many of the state's challenges, including housing. Much of the available land for housing expansion is in Washington County, and residential water capacity for additional housing units is already being factored into this project.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges. Unanticipated costs and a tight labor market have directly impacted the project. This has resulted in severe inflationary cost increases to the tune of \$315 million. Making up this difference will require substantial rate increases and will directly impact residents and regional business competitiveness.

I am here to urge your support for our request of \$100 million to invest in this project, which has significant regional and statewide significance. This investment will help soften inflationary impacts on consumers, which includes school districts, small businesses, a community college, hospitals and struggling low-income and older adult water users.

Sincerely,

Todd Sanders
TVWD Board Chair